

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2242

INFO CINCPAC

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 1038

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11649

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP, CH

SUBJECT: CHINA'S POPULATIONS BY PROVINCES--853.2 MILLION

REF: HONG KONG 7375

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF
CHAIRMAN MAO, A SPATE OF POPULATION STATISTICS HAS ENABLED
US TO COMPILE A POPULATION LIST FOR ALL OF CHINA'S 29
PROVINCIAL LEVEL UNITS. THE FIGURES ADD UP TO A TOTAL
NATIONAL POPULATION OF OVER 853.2 MILLION, THOUGH THIS IS
STILL SHORT OF CHINA'S ACTUAL POPULATION. THE LAST COMPARABLE
LIST WAS CONTAINED IN A PRC ATLAS OF OCTOBER 1974, WHEN THE
POPULATION WAS GIVEN AS OVER 700 MILLION. END INTRODUCTION

2. PROVINCES SOURCE

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(IN MILLIONS)

ANHWEI: 45 SEPTEMBER 19, 1976 PROVINCIAL
 BROADCAST (PB)
CHEKIANG: 35 AUGUST 13, 1976--PB
FUKIEN: MORE THAN 20 APRIL 15, 1976--PB
KEILUNGKIANG: 32 SEPTEMBER 11, 1976--PEOPLE'S
 DAILY (PD)
HONAN: 60 SEPTEMBER 20, 1976--PB
HOPEH: MORE THAN 40 JUNE 6, 1975--PEKING REVIEW
HUNAN: 40 SEPTEMBER 17, 1976--PB
HUPEH: 40 SEPTEMBER 17, 1976--PB
INNER MONGOLIA: 8 SEPTEMBER 20, 1976--PD
KANSU: 18 SEPTEMBER 12, 1976--PB
SIANGSI: 28 SEPTEMBER 19, 1976--PB
KIANGSU: 55 SEPTEMBER 20, 1976--PD
KIRIN: 23 SEPTEMBER 19, 1976--PB
KWANGSI: 31 APRIL 13, 1976--PB
KWANGTUNG: 53.5 DERIVED FROM A JULY 16, 1976 PD
 ARTICLE STATING THAT 26 PERCENT
 OF THE PEOPLE IN KWANGTUNG, 13
 910,000 CAN SWIM.
KWEICHOW:24 SEPTEMBER 29, 1976--PB
LIAONING: 33 SEPTEMBER 11, 1976--PB
NINGHSIA: MORE THAN 3 APRIL 9, 1976--NCNA DOMESTIC SERVICE
PEKING: 8 SEPTEMBER 10, 1976--PD
SHANGHAI: 10 SEPTEMBER 18, 1976--CITY BROADCAST
SHANSI: 23 SEPTEMBER 20, 1976--PD
SHANGTUNG: 68 SEPTEMBER 20, 1976--PD
SHENSI: 26 SEPTEMBER 30, 1976--PB
SINKAIGN: 10 SEPTEMBER 11, 1976--PB
SZECHUAN: 80 SEPTEMBER 20, 1976--PB
TIBET: 1.7 TOLD TO SCHLESINGER GROUP BY CHINESE
 SOURCE IN LHASA AND REPORTED
 SEPTEMBER 23, 1976 IN THE ASIAN
 WASLL STREET JOURNAL.
TITNTSIN: 7 MILLION SEPTEMBER 11, 1976--PD
TSINGHAI: MORE THAN 3 SEPTEMBER 20, 1976--PD
YUNNAN: 28 SEPTEMBER 19, 1976--PB

3.COMMENT: WHILE LARGER THAN THE PRC'S PUBLICILY ACKNOW-
LEDGED NATIONAL POPULATION STATISTIC OF 800 MILLION, THE
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TOTAL POPULATION FIGURE OBTAINED FROM THE ABOVE OF 853.2
MILLION IS STILL SHORT OF THE ACTUAL NUMBER. A JAPANESE
DIPLOMATIC SOURCE IN HONG KONG STATES THAT TWO LOCAL PRC
CADRES HAVE REVEALED PEKING IS CURRENTLY USING A NATIONAL
POPULATIONS FIGURE OF 900 MILLION IN ALL INTERNAL DOCUMENTS
(SEE REFTEL). ADDITIONALLY, MANY OF THE ABOVE PROVINCIAL
STATISTICS HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS.
FOR EXAMPLE, HUNAN'S POPULATION FIGURE OF 40 MILLION,

REVEALED IN SEPTEMBER 1976, WAS THE SAME AS THAT GIVEN IN DECEMBER 1974, WHILE KIANGSHI'S POPULATIONS WAS LISTED AT 28 MILLION AS FAR BACK AS JANUARY 1975. NEVERTHELESS, SINCE THE LAST PRC PROVINCIAL POPULATION BREAKDOWN WAS CONTAINED IN AN ATLAS OF OCTOBER 1974, THE ABOVE LIST REPRESENTS THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON PRC POPULATIONS BY PROVINCE.

4. THE PROVINCIAL STATISTICS THEMSELVES MAY BE TREATED AS UNCLASSIFIED.
CROSS

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